THE KINGS MAJESTIES DESIRES

To His Excellency

Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX.

PRESENTED

To His Excellency at the Head Quarters neere

READING.

Together with the Resolution of His Excellencie concerning the said Desires, and the great satisfaction His MAJESTIE received thereby. Likewise, a Message sent from his Excellency Sir *Tho: Fairfax*, to the Honourable House of *Commons*, *concerning the Kings most Excellent Majestie.*

Printed for the use and satisfaction of the whole Kingdome.

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The Kings

MAJESTIES

DESIRES,

To his Excellency Sir *Thomas Fairfax.*

Sir,

HAving obtained such a fit opportunity, to expresse my willingnesse in a satisfactory way, to all your Desires, I shall here impartially communicate the most remarkablest Occurrents, which hath (lately) ebb'd and flowed, within the Kingdomes great Streame, whose appearance in this instance of time, seemes to be the Worlds chiefest Object. But by reason of breviation, and the desire of a sudden dispatch, of some of these papers to the Army, I must of (necessity) betake my self to my limited bounds, and

and in the first place present unto you the Desires of the Kings Majesty to his Excellency Sir *Thomas Fairfax, viz.*

Upon Fryday last, July 2. His Majesty sent a Message to the General, intimating his earnest desires concerning his Highnesse the Duke of *Yorke*, and the rest of his Children at *London*, declaring, 1. *His earnest desire to see His Princely issue.* 2. *That they might bee speedily sent down unto Him.* 3. *That it would bring great contentment to His Majesty.* *And* 4. *That His Majesty desired His Excellency Sir* Thomas Fairfax, *speedily to send to the Parliament, to acquaint them therewith.*

Whereupon his Excellency immediatly dispatched a Letter to the House of Commons, a Copy whereof followeth:

Mr. Speaker,

I Was sent unto the King on Fryday last, to desire the Parliament to give way to him to see his Children; And that they might for that purpose be sent to him, If I may be bold humbly to offer my opinion, I think the allowance of such a thing may be without the least prejudice to the Kingdom, and yet gain more upon his Maj. then denying it; and if it be in the prayers of every good man, that his heart may be gained, the performance of such civilities to him is very sutable to those desires, and will hear well with all men, who (if they can imagine it to be their own case) cannot but be sorry, if his Maj. naturall affection to His Children, in so small a thing should not be complyed with; and if any question should be concerning the assurance of their return, I shall ingage for their return within what time the Parliament shall limit.

Upon

Upon this occaſion, give me leave, I beſeech you, to take notice of ſome reports ſpread abroad, as if my ſelfe, and the Officers of the Army were upon ſome under hand contract, or bargain with the King; and from thence occaſion is taken to ſlander our integrities, and endeavour a miſunderſtanding betwixt the Parliament and their Army, the fidelity of which to the Parliament and Kingdom, and their affection to it, are the great objects of many mens Envies, becauſe they ſee nothing ſo likely to ſettle Right and Freedom with Truth and Peace to Us and Poſterity, and to hinder their Deſignes againſt the ſame, as an harmony or good accord between the Parl. and Army, which is the joy of good men, and it ſhall be our ſtudy to preſerve againſt all Deſigns and Deſigners to the contrary. To prevent therefore all miſunderſtandings of that kind, I thought with all clearneſſe to declare unto you; That we have done nothing, nor ſhall doe any thing, which we deſire to hide from you or the world or ſhall not avow to the faces of our greateſt Adverſaries. Our Deſires concerning a juſt conſideration or ſettlement of the Kings Rights (his Majeſty firſt giving his concurrence to ſettle and ſecure the Rights and Liberties of the Kingdome) we have already publikely declared in our Repreſentation and Remonſtrance. Since the firſt of thoſe Papers ſent unto the Parl. there haue been ſeverall Officers of the Army upon ſeveral occaſions ſent to his Majeſty, the firſt to preſent to him a Copy of the Repreſentation, and after that ſome others to tender him a Copy of the Remonſtrance; upon both which, the Officers ſent were appointed to clear the ſence and intention of any thing in either Paper, whereupon his Maj. might make any

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queſtion. Since then, there have alſo been ſome Officers at ſeverall times ſent to his Majeſty about His remove from *Hatfield*, to diſſwade (if poſſibly) from *Windſor*, or any place ſo neare *London*, to ſome place of further diſtance, anſwerable to what we had deſired of the Parliament.

In all which addreſſes to his Majeſty, We care not who knowes what hath bin ſaid, or done; for as We have nothing to bergain for or aske, either from His Majeſty or the Parl. for advantage to our ſelves, or any particular party or intereſt of our own, ſo in all thoſe addreſſes to his Majeſty, we have utterly diſclaimed and diſavowed any ſuch thing, But the onely intent and effect of thoſe our addreſſes hath beene, to deſire his Maj. free concurrence with the Parlament, for eſtabliſhing and ſecuring the common Rights and Liberties, and ſetling the Peace of the Kingdom; and to aſſure him, that (the Publique being ſo provided for, with ſuch his Maj. concurrence) it is fully agreeable principles, and ſhould be deſirous and endevour, That (with and in ſuch ſetling of the Publique) the Rights of his Majeſties Royall Family ſhould be alſo provided for, ſo as a laſting peace might be ſetled in this Nation. And that as we had publikely declared for the ſame in generall termes, ſo (if things came to a way of ſettlement we ſhould not be wanting (in our ſphæras) to one that generall deſire, in any particulars of naturall or civill right to his Maj. Perſon or Family, which might not prejudice, or again indanger the Publique: and in the mean time, that his Majeſty ſhould find all perſonall civilities and reſpects from us, with all reaſonable freedom that might ſtand with ſafety, and with the truſt or charge lying upon us concerning his perſon.

You

You have here the utmoſt ſum of what hath paſſed from us to his Majeſty; and we could wiſh all men did rightly underſtand (without miſrepreſentation) every particular wherein (as we know nothing not agreeable to Reaſon, Juſtice, Honeſty or Conſcience, ſo we thought our ſelves concerned the rather to ſay & do, as we have towards his Majeſty ſince he came within our quarters, becauſe of thoſe common prejudices ſuggeſted againſt us, as if we were utter Enemies to Monarchy, and all civill Order of Government.

And for that particular of the Duke of *Richmond*, and the two Chaplaines lately permitted to attend his Majeſty, it was not done without much reluctancy, becauſe therein we doubted we might be miſunderſtood by the Kingdoms beſt friends.

But upon his Majeſties continuing importunity for it (as a thing very nearly concerning his inward & outward contentment; and conceiving thoſe perſons ſuch (as we hoped) would not doe ill Offices to prejudice the Peace of the kingdome, we did give away to it, and the perſons (before they came had notice of the permition: And as we then thought ſo we ſtill doe think that to allow him ſome ſuch company of perſons leaſt dangerous, whome former acquaintance make him take pleaſure in, and the allowance of ſome ſuch Chaplains of his own, are things both reaſonable and juſt; and the debarring of that liberty in the latter) We doubt will but make him more prejudiced againſt other Miniſters.

In generall Wee humble conceive, that to avoid al harſhneſſes and afford all kinde uſage to his Majeſties Perſon in things conſiſting with the Peace and Safety of the Kingdom is the moſt chriſtian Honourable and prudent way, Wee think that tendor, equitable and moderate dealing both towards his Majeſtie, his Royall Family, and his late party,

[ſo

[so far as may stand with safety to the Kingdome and securety to our common Rights and Liberties] is the most hopefull course to take away the seedes of war, or future Fends amongst us for posterity, and to precure a lasting Peace and Agreement in this now distracted Nation.

Thus have I given you the utmost summe of what hath passed betwixt the Kings most excellent Majesty, and his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax, concerning his Majesties Desires touching the coming downe of His Children, being very importunat to see them, and it is hoped it will not be denyed, by reason that the Generall hath engaged for their safe return. Here is a gallant Court, and his Majesty very cheerfull, being attended with many brave gallants. The Duke of Richmond behaveth himself with much civility, and in great favour with the King.

Thus for the present, I remain

Yours to serve you,

Canſam, July 11. 1647.

Robert Williamſon.

FINIS